

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 21, 2004.

By the present Amendment, minor amendments have been made, where appropriate, to correct informalities noted in reviewing the claims, such as antecedent basis. Also, a number of the dependent claims (for example, claim 2, claim 3, claim 15 etc.) have been amended to more specifically define further features of the present invention (such as the disconnection of the first junction point from the output terminal of the level converter circuit). As such, it is respectfully noted that the independent claims of the application has not been amended (with the exception of minor corrections for clarification to claims 23 and 27), so that the claims continue to clearly define over the cited prior art in this application.

Reconsideration and removal of the obviousness type double patenting rejection with regard to claims 1-42 as being unpatentable over claims 1-36 of the parent U.S. Patent 6,686,899 is respectfully requested. Although the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are patentably distinct from the claims of the parent application, in order to expedite the allowance of this application, Applicants are filing herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection. Therefore, entry of the attached Terminal Disclaimer, and allowance of this application, is respectfully requested.

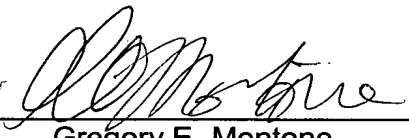
If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.40848CX1), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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